

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 DRC-01 /121 W

----- 067638

R 110935Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9416

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0998

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SF, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTION IN SA ON KILLING OF SA
POLICEMEN IN RHODESIA.

REF: PRETORIA 978

1. SAG MINISTER OF POLICE LOUWRENS MULLER DECLARED MARCH 11
THAT ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT ASSERTION THAT GUERRILLAS WHO SHOT
AND KILLED FOUR SA POLICEMEN MARCH 8 DID NOT RETREAT
INTO ZAMBIA WAS "AN INFAMOUS LIE." MULLER STATED, HE KNEW

BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT THE TERRORISTS FLED BACK INTO
ZAMBIA."

2. MULLER WAS RESPONDING TO REPORT, WHICH CARRIED IN PRESS
HERE, THAT ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DESCRIBED AS
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"MALICIOUS AND MISCHIEVOUS" SOUTH AFRICAN

ALLEGATION THAT THOSE WHO KILLED POLICEMENT HAD RETREATED TO BASES IN ZAMBIA. REPORTEDLY, ZAMBIAN SPOKESMAN SAID ALLEGATION COULD ONLY BE REGARDED AS AN EXERCISE IN SELF-DECEPTION.

3. IN STATEMENT ALSO ISSUED MARCH 11, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SAID THAT DEATH OF POLICEMEN IN RHODESIA BROUGHT NEARER TO ALL SOUTH AFRICANS " THE CRUEL REALITIES OF THE TERRORIST WAR." HE SAID ATTACKS WOULD CONTINUE " WITH GREATER FURTIVENESS AND WITH BETTER AND MORE DANGEROUS WEAPONS." CONCLUDING, HE STATED, " THE PRICE OF OUR FREEDOM REMAINS PERPETUAL WATCHFULNESS."

4. COMMENT: VORSTER'S ADMONITION ABOUT INCREASED DANGER OF " TERRORISM" IS IN SIMILAR VEIN TO THAT OF COMMENTS MADE BY BOTH AFRIKAANS AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS AND OPPOSITION POLITICAL LEADERS (REFTEL). STATEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE ALSO REFLECT APPARENT GENERAL ACCEPTANCE THAT GUERRILLAS CAME FROM ZAMBIAN BASES. THERE NO INDICATION, HOWEVER, THAT SAG HAS ANY INTENTION OF RESUSCITATING IDEA OF HOT PURSUIT WHICH CAME BACK TO HAUNT VORSTER AFTER HE EXPRESSED IT IN 1971. THOUGH NOT SURPRISING, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT IN ALL OF EDITORIAL COMMENTS AND REMARKS BY GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION FIGURES, NO ONE RAISES QUESTION ABOUT NECESSITY TO MAINTAIN SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY FORCES ALONG THE ZAMBEZI OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN RHODESIA.
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